

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: DeBraul et al.

Serial No.: 10/674,278

Filed: 9/29/2003

For: Lifting Column for a Medical Examination Table

Group Art Unit: 3637

Examiner: Unknown

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



26308

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITHIN
THREE MONTHS OF FILING OR BEFORE MAILING OF FIRST OFFICE ACTION
(37 CFR 1.97(b))

NOTE: "An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed: (1) within three months of the filing date of a national application; (2) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in S 1.491 in an international application; or (3) before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last." 37 CFR 1.97(b).

NOTE: The "filing date of a national application" under 37 CFR 1.97(b) has two possible meanings. Where the filing is a direct one to the United States Patent & Trademark Office, the filing is defined in 37 CFR 1.53(b) as "the date on which: (1) A specification containing a description pursuant to S 1.71 and at least one claim pursuant to S 1.75; and (2) any drawing required by S 1.81(a), are filed in the Patent and Trademark Office in the name of the actual inventor or inventors as required by S 1.41." 37 CFR 1.97(b)(1). On the other hand, an international application that enters the national stage occurs when the applicant has filed the documents and fees required by 35 U.S.C. S 371(c) within the periods set forth in S 1.494 or S 1.495. 35 U.S.C. S 371(c) requires the filing of the following: (1) the national fee; (2) a copy of the international application, unless already sent by the International Bureau, and an English translation if filed in another language; (3) amendments under PCT Article 19, with a translation into English if made in another language; (4) an oath or declaration; and (5) a translation into English of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report, if such annexes were made in another language. 37 CFR 1.97(b)(2).

IDENTIFICATION OF TIME OF FILING THE ACCOMPANYING INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF THE FILING DATE OF THE APPLICATION OR DATE OF ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL STAGE OF AN INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION OR BEFORE THE MAILING DATE OF A FIRST OFFICE ACTION ON THE MERITS, WHICHEVER EVENT OCCURS LAST. 37 CFR 1.97(b).

NOTE "NO CERTIFICATION OR FEE IS DUE WHEN THE FILING IS MADE WITHIN THE ABOVE TIME PERIOD. IT IS ADVISABLE TO ENSURE THAT NO OFFICE ACTION HAS BEEN MAILED IF THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IS DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THREE MONTHS FROM FILING.

NOTE: "An information disclosure statement will be considered to have been filed on the day it was received in the Office, or on an earlier date of a mailing if accompanied by a properly executed certificate of mailing under 37 CFR 1.8, or Express Mail certificate under 37 CFR 1.10. An Office action is mailed on the date indicated in the Office action." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8(a)) or (37 CFR 1.10).

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United State Postal Service on the date shown below as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed as follows: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Julie A. Wolf

Type or print name of person mailing paper

Date: 5/19/2005

Julie A. Wolf
(Signature of person mailing paper)

NOTE: "The term 'national application' includes continuing applications (continuations, divisions, continuations-in-part) so three-months will be measured from the actual filing date of an application as opposed [sic] to the effective date of a continuing application." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

NOTE: "An action on the merits means an action which treats the patentability of the claims in an application, as opposed to only formal or procedural requirements. An action on the merits would, for example, contain a rejection or indication of allowability of a claim or claims rather than just a restriction requirements (37 CFR 1.142) or just a requirement for additional fees to have a claim considered (37 CFR 1.16(d)). Thus, if an application was filed on Jan. 1 and the first Office action on the merits was not mailed until six months later on July 1, the examiner would be required to consider any proper information disclosure statement filed prior to July 1." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

WARNING: "A PETITION FOR SUSPENSION OF ACTION TO ALLOW APPLICANT TIME TO SUBMIT AN INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WILL BE DENIED AS FAILING TO PRESENT GOOD AND SUFFICIENT REASONS, SINCE 37 CFR 1.97 PROVIDES ADEQUATE RECOURSE FOR THE TIMELY SUBMISSION OF PRIOR ART FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE EXAMINER." NOTICE OF JULY 6, 1992 (1141 O.G. 63).

The submission of any document herewith is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima face* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

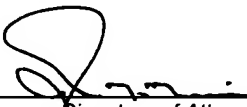
Should any fees be necessary in connection with this submission, please charge same to Account No. 06-2360.

Date 5/19/2005

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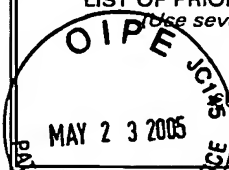
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LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> 	ATTY DOCKET NO. 1217.18403	SERIAL NO. 10/674,278
	APPLICANT DeBaal et al.	
	FILING DATE 9/29/2003	GROUP 3637

CUSTOMER NO. 26308

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (if Appropriate)
	6,886,200	5/3/2005	Blyshak et al.			
	6,886,199	5/3/2005	Schwaegerle			
	6,857,147	2/22/2005	Somasundaram			
	6,832,398	12/21/2004	Borders et al.			
	6,802,564	10/12/2004	Brockway et al.			
	6,769,145	8/3/2004	Pfeuffer et al.			
	6,754,923	6/29/2004	Borders et al.			
	6,739,006	5/25/2004	Borders et al.			
	6,681,423	1/27/2004	Zachrisson			
	6,678,908	1/20/2004	Borders et al.			
	6,659,556	12/9/2003	Pellerin			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through and not considered. Include copy of this of with next communication to applicant.

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If Appropriate)
	6,651,279	11/25/2003	Muthuvelan			
	6,638,299	10/28/2003	Cox			
	6,546,577	4/15/2003	Chinn			
	6,505,364	1/14/2003	Simmons et al.			
	6,382,725	5/7/2002	Carroll			
	6,374,133	4/16/2002	Dutto et al.			
	6,363,555	4/2/2002	LaRose			
	6,353,949	3/12/2002	Falbo			
	6,345,193	2/5/2002	Dutto et al.			
	6,237,172	5/29/2001	Morgan, Sr.			
	5,348,375	9/20/1994	Steininger			

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	D462,445	9/3/2002	Barde et al.			
	D462,189	9/3/2002	Brockway et al.			
	D420,225	2/8/2000	Lamb et al.			
	D379,409	5/27/1997	Schwaegerle et al.			
	D378,961	4/29/1997	Nordstrom et al.			
	D361,438	8/22/1995	Spencer et al.			
	US 2005 / 0015878 A1	1/27/2005	Bannister et al.			
	US 2004 / 0172757 A1	9/9/2004	Somasundaram			
	US 2004 / 0172756 A1	9/9/2004	Somasundaram			
	US 2004 / 0133979 A1	7/15/2004	Newkirk et al.			

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If Appropriate)
	US 2004 / 0098804 A1	5/27/2004	Varadharajulu et al.			
	US 2004 / 0074003 A1	4/22/2004	Bannister			
	US 2004 / 0074002 A1	4/22/2004	Bannister			
	US 2004 / 0068797 A1	4/15/2004	Smith et al.			
	US 2003 / 0145383 A1	8/7/2003	Schwaegerle			
	US 2003 / 0074735 A1	4/24/2003	Zachrisson			
	US 2003 / 0071503 A1	4/17/2003	Brockway et al.			
	US 2003 / 0061662 A1	4/3/2003	Strobel et al.			

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	US 2002 / 0170116 A1	11/21/2002	Borders et al.			
	US 2002 / 0170116 A1	1/21/2002	Borders et al.			
	US 2001 / 0003789 A1	6/14/2001	Dutto et al.			

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